

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 00426 221511Z

42

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 /070 W

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P 221420Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7423

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, TD, XL

SUBJ: GOT PLANS TO PROTEST U.S. TRADE ACT

REF: POS 226

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. IN A SURPRISE ANNOUNCEMENT FEBRUARY 21, MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE ERROL MAHABIR SAID THAT THE GOT PLANS COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO STUDY THE U.S. TRADE ACT HAD FOUND SEVERAL PROVISIONS OBJECTIONABLE. CABINET HAS APPROVED THE COMMITTEE'S FINDING AND INSTRUCTED MAHABIR TO DISCUSS THE GOT'S CONCERNS WITH OTHER CARICOM MEMBERS AT THE MINISTERIAL-LEVEL MEETING IN BARBADOS FEBRUARY 24. MAHABIR SAID THAT RATHER THAN THE GOT ALONE TAKING A POSITION, THE CARICOM GOVERNMENTS WILL TRY TO DEVELOP A JOINT POSITION AT THE MEETING (ALTHOUGH ITS PRINCIPAL TOPIC IS THE EEC-ACP AGREEMENT).

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END UNCLASSIFIED

2. COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST NEGATIVE REACTION WE HAVE HAD TO THE TRADE ACT, AND IT MAY BE A CRUCIAL ONE SINCE WE PRESUME THAT MAHABIR'S STATEMENT WAS COORDINATED WITH PM WILLIAMS AND MINISTER OF FINANCE CHAMBERS, WHO ARE STILL IN THE UNITED STATES. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE PROVISIONS DECLARED OBJECTIONABLE BY THE GOTT COMMITTEE INCLUDE THE "CARTELS" SECTION AND SECTIONS WHICH "DISCRIMINATE AGAINST NATIONS WHICH NATIONALIZE U.S. INVESTMENT." AT THIS STAGE, WE ARE UNABLE TO PREDICT WHETHER THE GOTT WILL SETTLE FOR A CARICOM POSITION DEPLORING OBJECTIONABLE PROVISIONS, OR IF IT MIGHT PUSH FOR COMPLETE REJECTION OF THE TRADE ACT.

RICH

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To: STATE
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